

CALIFORNIA BASIC EDUCATIONAL SKILLS TEST

The California Education Code and Title 5 Regulations state that every applicant for a credential, certificate, or permit to serve in the public schools of California must verify basic skills proficiency by obtaining a passing score on the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST) before the credential, certificate, or permit will be issued. Applicants for the following documents are exempt from this requirement:

1. Renewal, reissuance, or upgrading of existing credentials, certificates, or permits;
2. An additional credential, certificate, or permit to teach when the applicant holds a non-emergency California teaching document which required a bachelor's degree;
3. Credentials issued solely for teaching adults in apprenticeship programs;
4. Adult Education Designated Subjects Credentials in non-academic subjects (the Local Education Agency or Employing School District that recommends for the credentials in #3 and #4 has further information concerning these exemptions);
5. Certificates of Clearance;
6. Children's Center Instruction Permits and Special Center Permits;
7. Health Services Credentials; and
8. Vocational and Special Subjects (except Driver Education and Training) Designated Subjects Credentials.

Applicants for the following documents may serve on a credential for one year pending the passage of CBEST:

1. Exchange Credentials; and
2. One-Year Nonrenewable (OYNR) Credentials. This credential may be issued to applicants who have completed their professional training outside of California and who have met all of the requirements for an initial California credential except for a passing score on the CBEST. Applicants for the OYNR credential must submit a completed application packet through a California school district or county office of education that must include written verification that (1) the district or county cannot find a fully credentialed person to fill the open position, or one or more credentialed persons are available but do not meet the specified employment criteria for the open position, (2) they have offered employment to the credential applicant, and (3) the applicant has passed a basic skills test developed by the district or county. The district basic skills test does not replace the CBEST, which still must be taken and passed during the first year of employment.

The CBEST need only be passed once and the passing score will remain valid indefinitely for all credential and employment purposes. To pass CBEST one must obtain a minimum scaled score of 41 in each of the three sections (reading, writing and mathematics). However, a section score as low as 37 is acceptable if the total scaled score is at least 123. CBEST can be repeated as many times as necessary to obtain a passing score, but the full registration fee is charged for each test administration. Refer to the test booklet published by CBEST Program for information about retaking failed sections of the examination. No separate processing fee is required when the score is submitted to the Commission office. The score reports will be mailed approximately four weeks after the test date.

CBEST serves two purposes in addition to certification. It is required for employment under certain conditions, so applicants should contact their employers to see if they will be required to take the examination in order to obtain employment. Finally, CBEST must be taken for diagnostic purposes prior to the final deadline for application for admission to a teacher education program. Contact the college or university education department for more information about this aspect of CBEST.

The CBEST Bulletin of Information with registration materials and information regarding test sites and fees is available at school district and county education offices, and in the testing offices of any college or university offering Commission-approved subject matter or teacher training programs. You may also contact the CBEST Program, National Evaluation Systems, Inc., P. O. Box 340880, Sacramento, CA 94834-0880, (916) 928-4001.

CBEST 1996-1997 Registration Schedule			
Test Date	Postmark Deadline for Regular Registration	Late Registration Period (by phone only; requires an additional \$20 fee)	Emergency Registration Period (by phone only; limited to selected test sites; requires an additional \$40 fee)
August 17, 1996	July 19	July 22-August 6	August 7-August 13
October 19, 1996	September 20	September 23- October 8	October 9-October 15
December 7, 1996	November 8	November 12- November 26	November 27-December 3
February 8, 1997	January 10	January 13- January 28	January 29-February 4
April 12, 1997	March 14	March 17-April 1	April 2-April 8
June 14, 1997	May 16	May 19-June 3	June 4-June 10